

Media, PA — Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke to students of the Delaware County Technical Schools Medical Careers Program. Congressman Sestak addressed concerns and questions of the students and faculty regarding the current economic impact on the health care industry and health education and toured the facility with Delaware County Technical School Director Dr. Philip Lachimia.

The Delaware County Technical Schools (DCTS) is an extension of the local district comprehensive high school. Students residing in any of the 15 school districts in Delaware County may elect to enroll in career and technical education (CTE) programs offered at the technical schools. The Delaware County Technical Schools offer a wide variety of programs for secondary students. The programs are competency-based programs and offer rigorous CTE content and provide the basis for student success in their chosen career areas. Additionally, these programs are either nationally certified or working toward certification to ensure a high standard within the curriculum content area. Students enrolled at DCTS elect courses that will lead to jobs that exist in the current local job market. Students also have the option of attending colleges and universities as part of articulation or dual enrollment agreements with various post-secondary institutions. Programs are brought to the next level by integrating academics within the career and technical curricula and increasing student achievement expectations as a means of strengthening the career pathway and post-secondary options available to students.

To avoid a deeper and more protracted economic recession that would devastate the economic security of his constituents, while ensuring a more rapid recovery from the recession, Congressman Joe Sestak voted for H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which passed the House by a vote of 244 - 188. The legislation begins to rebuild the economy and puts Americans back to work during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression – an economy in which the housing market is in its worst state since the 1930s, and turmoil in the financial markets threatens the long-term economic, health, education, and retirement security of millions of Americans.

“As we begin this new session of Congress in the midst of economic turmoil, our foremost priority must be to reduce the financial strains felt by millions of American families, while immediately stabilizing our economy. Since September, I have been dedicated to creating and supporting a stimulus package that balances short term investment with long term fiscal responsibility – a policy that ensures that not only our generation enjoys the fruits of a robust economy, but that the next generation is not burdened by a devastating debt. I believe that based on the compelling evidence, the future debt would be exponentially worse if no action is taken and therefore I joined 243 of my colleagues in supporting passage of this urgently needed stimulus,” said Congressman Sestak.

Educational Provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include investments in education through school and college modernization, an increase of Pell Grants and higher education tax credits to make college more affordable- creating 250,000 jobs in education and related sectors and prevention of teacher layoffs and education cuts by the states.

More specific list:

SAVE PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS AND PROTECTING VITAL SERVICES

State Education and Other Budget Priorities:

\$120 billion to states and school districts to stabilize budgets and prevent tax increases and deep cuts to critical education programs, including:

\$41 billion to local school districts through Title I (\$13 billion), IDEA (\$13 billion), a new School Modernization and Repair Program (\$14 billion), and the Education Technology program (\$1 billion).

\$79 billion in state fiscal relief, including: \$39 billion to local school districts and public colleges and universities distributed through existing state and federal formulas; \$15 billion to states as bonus grants as a reward for meeting key performance measures; and

\$25 billion to states for other high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education.

Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act or HITECH Act

Investing \$20 billion in health information technology infrastructure and Medicare and Medicaid incentives to encourage doctors and hospitals to use HIT to electronically exchange patients' health information.

Requiring the government to take a leadership role to develop standards by 2010 that allow for the nationwide electronic exchange and use of health information to improve quality and coordination of care.

Saving the government \$10 billion and generating additional savings throughout the health sector, through improvements in quality of care and care coordination and reductions in medical errors and duplicative care.

Strengthening Federal privacy and security law to protect identifiable health information from misuse as the health care sector increases use of Health IT.

As a result of this legislation, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that approximately 90% of doctors and 70% of hospitals will be using comprehensive electronic health records within the next decade.

Training Primary Care Providers:

\$600 million to address shortages and prepare our country for universal healthcare by training primary healthcare providers including doctors, dentists, and nurses as well as helping pay medical school expenses for students who agree to practice in underserved communities through the National Health Service Corps.

VI. Investing in Education for the 21st Century

A well-trained, college-educated workforce is key to a strong American economy and middle class. The economic crisis, combined with rising tuition prices and declining state support for higher education, threatens to put college out of reach for many students – forcing them to take a semester off or even skip college. Allowing students to be priced out of a college education will only further weaken our workforce and our economy. Economists, the business community, scientists and others agree that making strategic investments in education is a smart move to grow our economy and regain our competitive edge in the 21st century global economy.

Economists tell us that strategic investments in education are one of the best ways to help America become stronger, and more productive and competitive. This recovery package will make bold investments to provide children with a 21st century education, modernize our schools and colleges, and make college more affordable. Making investments to modernize our schools will create tens of thousands of jobs. Economist Mark Zandi estimates that, overall, this

recovery package will save or create more than 250,000 jobs in the education and health care sectors.

Specifically for the 7th Congressional District, for one example, the stimulus will provide: \$74,197,800 to area school districts, including \$23,716,500 for construction funding, \$13,961,200 for the execution of Title 1-A, and a \$36,520,100 investment in IDEA special education programs.

Details:

Making College More Affordable

Pell Grants: \$15.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$500, from \$4,850 to \$5,350.
College Work-Study: \$490 million to support undergraduate and graduate students who work.
Student Loan Limit Increase: Increases limits on unsubsidized Stafford loans by \$2,000.
Student Aid Administration: \$50 million to help the Department of Education administer surging student aid programs while navigating the changing student loan environment.

Investing in K-12 Education

IDEA Special Education: \$13 billion for formula grants to increase the federal share of special education costs and prevent these mandatory costs from forcing states to cut other areas of education.
Title I Help for Disadvantaged Kids: \$13 billion for grants to help disadvantaged kids in nearly every school district and more than half of all public schools reach high academic standards.
Statewide Data Systems: \$250 million for competitive grants to states to design and develop data systems that analyze individual student data to find ways to improve student achievement, providing teachers and administrators with effective tools.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth: \$66 million for formula grants to states to provide services to homeless children including meals and transportation when high unemployment and home foreclosures have created an influx of homeless kids.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking

former military officer ever elected to the Congress.

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